

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

February 2015 Newsletter

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Life-size mockup of Siemens High Speed Train to be displayed at the Moving California event at the State Capitol Feb. 25-26. See details below or visit usa.siemens.com/movingcalifornia

Scheduled Events & Notices



**Feb 25-26 “Moving California” event, State Capitol West Steps (10th btn L & N)
10am-4pm – Free Tour of Siemens Life Size High Speed Train Mockup**

Feb 26 PSRHS Meeting and Presentation – 7 pm
– Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg – Program - Roger Staab
– 1980’s train trip to Mexico’s Copper Canyon Details on page 2.

Mar 09 Colfax RR Days Planning Meeting – 7 pm – Colfax City Council Chambers

Mar 26 PSRHS Meeting and Presentation – 7 pm
– Auburn Airport Terminal Bldg – Program TBA

**** Remember to renew your membership if you haven’t already done so ****



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Next meeting 7:00PM, February 26th
Auburn Airport Terminal Building

Program: Roger Staab's slide show of a 1980's train trip to Mexico's Copper Canyon, a look at impressive mountain railroading and a time shift to an earlier era.

January Program: We enjoyed a presentation by Peter Hills on his recent trip across Canada by train.

Donner Crossings Issue

A new issue of Donner Crossings is being distributed to paid up members. Topics include "Colfax - 150 Years of Railroading"; "Colfax Marble Quarry"; "Is it a Station, a Depot or a Terminal?"; And "By Steamship, Ferry and Rail from San Francisco to Colfax in 1873."

PSRHS Board Meeting January

Items discussed at the January 26 board meeting:

- Railroad Museum in Colfax. Need to develop project plan and designate someone to organize it. City is receptive to supporting the concept
- Authorized \$150 for printing photo notebooks of depot renovation project and Colfax Railroad Changes
- Colfax Railroad Days -- need a local face to head this year's celebration of Colfax 150th anniversary
- Website -- need someone to assist with content. Perhaps hire someone who will jazz up website as well as twitter and facebook
- WebCam -- need to form a committee to look at improvements to webcam presence on our website
- Big Day of Giving is coming. See adjacent article.

Colfax Railroad Days Planning Meetings

Next Railroad Days planning meeting will be held on **Monday, March 9, 7pm, at the Colfax City Hall Council Chambers.** At the February 9 meeting, **Britni Fitzgerald** was introduced as event coordinator for this year's event. Britni can be reached at

britni@colfaxrailroaddays.org

Key tasks and duties associated with putting on the event were discussed, along with the need for points of contact. These will be a focus of the March meeting.

Ideas that were proposed at the February meeting include simplified "picket fence" signage, bunting for major buildings and fences, and seeking more donations for and possible relocation of kids zone to a more central location. Kids zone was a big hit last year but also a big cost item, as was the people mover.

Big Day of Giving (Big Dog) May 5

PSRHS is a registered participant in this year's Big Day of Giving. This is an event that helps raise donations for local non-profits through a regional and national day of giving organized by GiveLocalNow. We are thankful for all donations to our club and its activities. If you are thinking of donating to PSRHS, consider waiting until the Big Dog event. Funds raised by individual organizations during Big Dog are enhanced by regional donations.

Towle Brothers Book Sales

Sales for the PSRHS-published Towle Brothers book are nearing 400 copies, with over \$3400 raised to date for club activities. Please support the following merchants and outlets who have kindly aided PSRHS by selling copies of the book.

- MarVal Sierra Market -- Colfax
- SPD Market -- Grass Valley
- SPD Market -- Nevada City
- Auburn True Value Hardware
- Railroad Hobbies -- Roseville
- The Train Store -- Santa Clara
- Colfax Heritage Museum
- Nevada County Narrow Gauge Museum Nevada City
- Golden Drift Museum -- Dutch Flat
- Plumas County Museum -- Quincy
- Donner Summit Museum -- Soda Springs
- California Welcome Center -- Auburn
- California State Railroad Museum - Sacramento
- Tomes Books -- Grass Valley

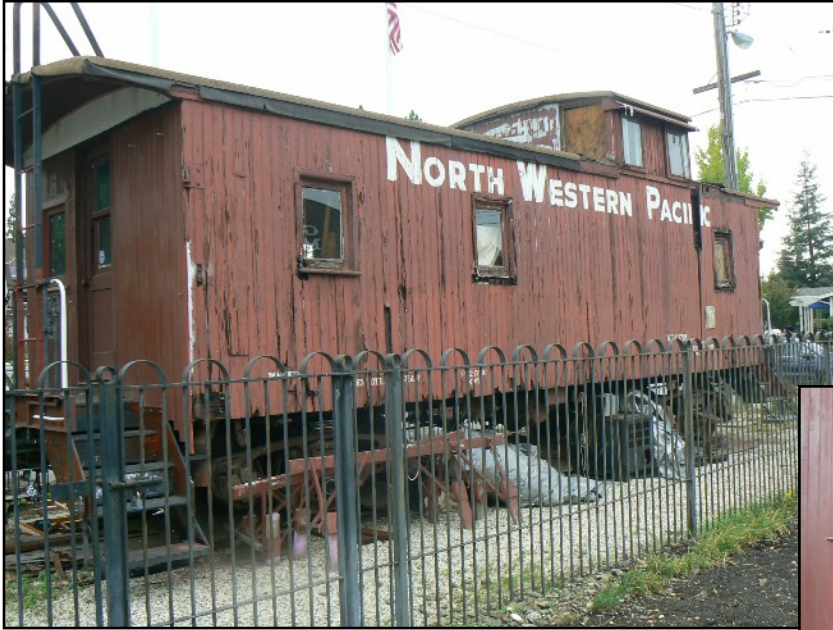


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Passing Scene



This month's Passing Scene features the rapidly changing appearance of the Colfax caboose in downtown Colfax. Tony Hesch and his crew have stripped and replaced the tongue and groove siding on the street side of the caboose over the past two months. The top photo taken in October 2014 showed the badly deteriorated condition of the final unfinished side. In the middle photo taken in late January 2015 the old siding had been removed, and installation of new siding was underway. The lower photo taken earlier this month shows new siding installed, window openings cut and new windows and sills in place. Work remaining includes side windows of the cupola, fascia boards, exterior metal hardware, new roofing, and interior sanding and painting. Recent donations that have helped make this further work possible will be highlighted in next month's newsletter. *Photos by Roger Staab.*



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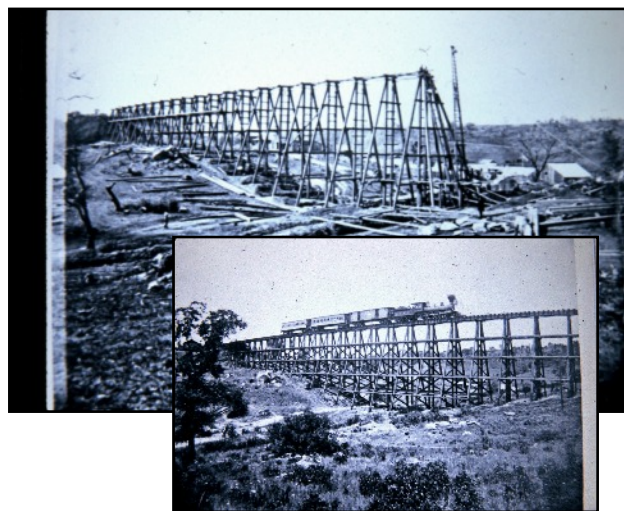
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From the Archives

January Mystery Photos:

The Newcastle trestle, 528 feet long and 60 feet high, was completed in late 1864. The trestle was filled in 1876. In 1909 the ravine crossing was relocated slightly northeast to its present site on new fill as part of the double-tracking project. The present-day railroad bridge that crosses I-80 was added when the freeway was constructed.

Both photos from the Ken Yeo Collection



February Mystery Photo:

Joe Halton provided this month's photo, a change of pace from recent mystery photos. Where were these tracks located, and what did they serve? What was the motive power? Hint – the scene was not on the Donner Route, but was located not too far away.



CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline: In 1911 the hillside at the south edge of Colfax was cut away to make way for the new double tracks, a large yard and engine house southwest of Grass Valley Street. At several locations along the double tracking project the new track and old track ran close to each other. Some sections of the winding original roadbed that hugged the hillsides were abandoned and the old tracks moved to the new straightened alignment. Many of these abandoned roadbed segments can be found today along the route.

Membership Information

Individual Members = \$25.00/yr
Each Additional Member Card = \$5.00/yr

- Monthly Meetings (4th Thursday) and Newsletter
- Member Activities, Presentations and Field Trips
- Display and Restoration Projects

PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776, Colfax, CA 95713
or join/renew online at www.psrhs.org

Reader comments, additional details, etc., are invited on any newsletter items or photos. Please forward comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter to:

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